

PIONEERS MARK 60th WEDDING DAY

FRIENDS, FAMILY PAY TRIBUTE TO AUGUSTA COUPLE

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Helzerman, Sr., Wednesday celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary with a family dinner at noon. Attending were their eight children and their families, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Helzerman, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Helzerman, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Helzerman, all of Southwest Augusta, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Helzerman, London Township, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Northrup, Ypsilanti, Mrs. J. H. Clayton, Belleville, Mrs. William Whitcomb, Milan, and Mr. and Mrs. Claud Prince, Sumpter. So eager was the family to have all its members present, that Mrs. Whitcomb, who is an invalid, was brought in an ambulance. Scores of friends and neighbors came in the afternoon to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Helzerman, who have resided in Augusta Township, all of their married lives.

Sixty years ago Fred Helzerman and Louisa Oelke spoke their nuptial vows at a simple ceremony, in Ann Arbor. Mrs. Rosa Smith was bridesmaid, and Mrs. Helzerman's brother, Gottlieb Oelke, attended Mr. Helzerman. Mr. Helzerman is now 86 years of age, and his wife, 80.

Mr. Helzerman was born in Westphalia, Germany, and came to America with his parents and three brothers and sisters at the age of 18. They made the journey on the sailing vessel, "Stella" in which the trip required 54 days. They came immediately to Ypsilanti, and opened a shoe shop where the Ypsilanti Savings Bank now stands. The father, Mr. Helzerman and a brother were shoemakers.

Three years later they purchased a farm in the woods of Augusta Township, the present Helzerman farm occupying a part of this original tract.

Mrs. Helzerman, formerly Miss Louisa Oelke, was born in Posen, Germany. She emigrated to this country with her family, and in Ypsilanti met Mr. Helzerman. They were married on Nov. 21, 1874, and went to live on the farm in Augusta Township. Their home was a little 16 by 24 foot frame house, in which they lived the first 20 years of their lives together. Eight of their children were born there. When they built a new house it was directly in front of their original home, and here their last child, Arthur, was born. All of their children except Max, who died in 1913, are living. All of them attended the Hardy School, which is within a mile of their home.

Mrs. Helzerman was a true pioneer woman. While the family still lived in the little house, she raised ducks and geese, and from their feathers made two feather beds for each of her children, to be given to them when they were grown. She churned all the butter and baked all

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STILL IN LOVE



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Helzerman, Sr.

the bread the family used. She helped her sons cut wood, the principal product of the farm, and her husband brought it to Ypsilanti in wagons drawn by ox teams. She is still active enough to do her own house work, which includes making butter and baking bread.

Mr. Helzerman cleared most of his 120 acre farm, and since has farmed it. He is still capable of doing all the chores on the farm, and occasionally chopping down a tree. For several years he held the position of highway commissioner in Augusta Township.

The couple say they were in love when they were married and insist that they still are. Mr. Helzerman is positive that in five more years, their friends will all be requested to come and help them celebrate 65 years of wedded life.

Besides the eight children, there are 28 grandchildren and two great grandchildren living.

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